

By the Queene.

A Proclamation for Measures, published by the Queenes Commandement.



Here for the avoiding of varietie and deceipts of weights and Measures, diverse Statutes, Acts and Ordinances haue heretofore beene made, That one weight, and one Measure should be vsed throughout the Realme, And where, according to the Statutes made in the eleuenth and twelfth yeeres of the reigne of the late king of famous memorie King Henry the seventh, there haue bene made, sent, and deliuered into divers Cities and Townes, specified in a Schedule vnto the said Acte of 11. H. 7. annexed, weights and Measures of Brasse according to the Standards thereof remaining in the Treasurie of the Exchequer, to remaine in the keeping of the Maior, Bayliffe, or other head Officer for the time being, of euery of the same Citie or Towne, as the kings Standard of weight and Measure, with authoritie and power giuen by the same Statute, to the said Maior, Bayliffe, or other head Officer, having the said weights and Measures, to make, signe and print like weights and Measures vnto every of the kings subiects, duely requiring the same, as by the said Statutes more at large appeareth: Our Soueraigne Ladie the Queene, being enformed that the said Standard measures remaining in those Cities and Townes, for the most part are by long continuance of time, or for want of good keeping, or other defects or abuses differing and not agreeing with the ancient Standard of Measures remaining in her highnesse Exchequer at westminster, by occasion whereof the Measures commonly vsed within the Realme be vncertaine, and varying one from another to the great slander of the same, and the deceiving of many both buyers and sellers: Hath giuen order and commandement to the L. Treasurer and vnder Treasurer, to cause all the ancient Standard measures of all those severall Cities and Townes to be brought in before them at the Exchequer at westminster, to be examined and tryed by the Queens Standard measure there remaining, according to which her Maiesties commandement, the Lord Treasurer and vnder Treasurer haue caused all the ancient Standard measures of all those severall Cities and Townes to be brought before them into her highnesse said Exchequer, where diuerse of them vpon diligent and due triall and examination haue bene found defective, differing and disagreeing from the true and ancient Standard of the Exchequer. whereupon her Maiestie intending the common & publique good of all her louing Subiects, and to auoide all differences and deceipts of Measure within this her highnesse Realme, vpon good and deliberate advise, and due consideration therein had, Hath not onely established the foresaid true and ancient Standard of Measures remaining in her Maiesties Exchequer, there to continue and be, as her Maiesties Standard, to examine, trie, and size all other Measures of the Realme by, from time to time as occasion shall require: But also hath giuen commandement to the Lord Treasurer and vnder Treasurer to cause all the other Measures which were brought before them (from the Cities and Townes aforesaid) found vpon triall to be differing and disagreeing from the true and ancient Standards of measures of her highnesse Exchequer, to be broken.

And further her Maiesty hath giuen order and commandement vnto the said Lord Treasurer and vnder Treasurer, forthwith to cause new Standards of measures in Brasse to be made, tryed, and approued by the sayd true and ancient Standard of the Exchequer, and after true and iust examination and triall thereof had and made, to size and seale (with the letter E crownd) such and so many Standard measures, for euery of the sayd severall Cities and Townes limited to haue the custodie of weights and measures, according to the Queenes Standard for euery Shire by the sayd schedule annexed vnto the sayde Statute made in the eleuenth yeere of the Reigne of King Henry the seventh, there to remaine for ever in the keeping of the Mayor, Bayliffe, or other head Officer for the time being of the said City and Towne as the Queenes Standard of measure, as to them shall seeme necessary and conuenient. And also as many as may serue and be conuenient for the Clerke of the Market of her Highnesse housshould (and through the Realme) or his Deputies, according to the Statute of Anno 16. R.2. Cap 3. And also as may or shall serue for any other her Maiesties Officers or Subiects within this Realme as shall make suite for the hauing and obtaining of the same.

Her Maiesties will and pleasure therefore is, That the Mayor, Bayliffes, Portreunes, Wardens, and other head Officers of euery of the sayde Cities, Boroughes, Townes, Cinqueports, and places mentioned in the schedule annexed to the sayd Statute of Anno 11. H.7. before the Feast of S. John Baptist next comming, at the common charge of the same place, shall send some sufficient person vnto the sayd Exchequer, authorized to receive such Standards as shalbe deliuered vnto him, by the order and appointment of the sayde Lord Treasurer and vnder Treasurer, for the sayd City, Borough, Towne, or place, And to pay such reasonable pricess for the same, as vpon true valuation of the same shalbe by the said Lord Treasurer and vnder Treasurer rated or assessest: Which Standards, euery of the said Mayors, Bayliffes, and other head Officers vnto whome it shall appertaine, shall safely keepe or cause to be kept in some sure and conuenient place in the same City, Borough, or Towne, and by them make or size, or cause to be made and sized, other common Measures for the vse of all manner of people in the same City, Borough, Towne, or place that shal haue cause to vse Measures. And shall also make, signe, and print with the first letter of the name of the same City, Borough, Towne, or place where the same Measure shalbe so made, sized, and printed, like Measures vnto euery of the Queens Subiects duely requiring the same, taking such fees for the doing thereof as by the Statutes of the Realme are allowed, and no more. And euery of the sayde Mayors, Bayliffes, and other head Officers of Cities, Boroughes, Townes, and places within this Realme shall further doe and cause to be done, all such other Act and Actes, thing and things, for the prouiding, hauing, and vsing of the sayde Standards of measures as be limited and appointed to their or any of their authoritie by the said Statutes made in the eleuenth and twelft yeeres of the late King Henry the seventh, or any other Statute or Ordinance whatsoeuer: So as all the Measures through the Realme may be reformed and made agreeable according to the Standard of the Exchequer, as by the Statutes in such case is required. And her Maiestie further commandeth and ordaineth, That no person or persons shall from the first day of August next comming, vse any other Measure or Measures, but such as shall be made or sized, and respectiuely agreeing with the sayd Standards, and printed and marked with such markes and letters as before is limitted, vpon paine to be apprehended, committed to prison, fined and punished, as contriuers and vlers of false Measures, according to the Statutes in that case made and provided. And that this Proclamation for the better instructing of all her Maiesties Subiects, shall before the feast of Easter now next comming, be proclaimed in euery Market towne thorow the Realm, and be hanged vp, and fastened in a Table in the Market place by an officer, where it may continue

to be seene and read by any that will. And further, That it shall be read in every Parish Church before the sayd feast of Easter next comming, in a time and space betweene the beginning and ending of Common prayer, vpon the Sunday or Holy day, by the Minister or Clerke of the Church, and so from thenceforth once at every feast of the Annunciation of the blessed Virgin Marie, And once at every feast of S. Michael the Archangel, by the space of five yeeres next comming, or be hanged vp, and preserued in every Church in a Table, to be seene and read at all times by any that will: And that the defaults of Officers, Ministers, Clerkes, and Churchwardens in this behalfe, shalbe enquired of and punished by the Justices of Assize, and Justices of Peace in their Sessions, according to their discretions, as contemners of her Maiesties commandement. And that all the Standards and Meas-ures whatsoeuer, not sized, marked and printed, and made respectiuely agreeing to and with the fore-sayd Standards, and the true meaning of this proclamation, shall from the sayd feast of S. John Baptist next comming, whiche shall be in the yeere of our Lord God 1602. bee reputed and taken for vntrue measures, and shalbe broken, defaced and destroyed by the owners of the same, or by such offi-cers as haue or shall haue authoritie to enquire of false weights and Measures.

And for the better execution hereof, all Maiors, Bailiffes, and other head Officers of euery Citie, Shire, Towne, Borrough, or Market within this Realme, shall immediatly after the sayd Feast of S. John Baptist, and so from time to time according to the said Statute, as all other Corporate, Bo-rough, or Market Townes within this Realme, cause to be brought before them all the Measures within the same Cities, Borroughes, Corporate or Market Townes, to be duely viewed and exami ned, and such as they shall finde defective or disagreeing vnto the foresaid Standard Measures, either in greatnesse or smallnesse, to cause to be broken & defaced, and further punishment to be done vpon the offenders therein, according to the Statute. And that the Justices of Peace, or two of them (whereof one of them to be of the Quorum) shall with all diligence and from time to time, by examination or enquirie heare and determine the defaults of all Maiors, Bayliffes, and other head Officers of Ci ties, Borroughes, Corporate or Market Townes within their limits or authorities on that behalfe, and to set Fines and Amercements vpon the offenders in that behalfe by their discretions, and those to estreate into the Court of Exchequer, and that vpon paine of the punishment due for such contempt.

And lastly, her Maiestie straightly chargeth and commandeth all Justices of Assize, Justices of Peace, her Highnesse Clerke of the Market, Maiors, Bailiffes, Stewards of Liberties, and all other her Maiesties Officers and Ministers whatsoeuer, to cause this present Proclamation, & all Lawes, Statutes, and ordinances, for the hauing and vsing of true Measures, and for the abolishing the vse of false Measures, to be put in execution according to their severall authorities and Jurisdiccons, as they tender her Maiesties service herein, and the Common Wealth of this Realme.

God sauе the Queene.

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